



CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

March 4, 1997

COPY

Ms. Cynthia Dougherty  
Director of Ground Water and Drinking Water  
U S Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 4102  
401 M Street, S W  
Washington, D C 20460

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Dear Ms. Dougherty:

Bay-Delta Drinking Water Quality Criteria

The California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and your staff on February 21, 1997 to discuss the findings of a report on "Bay-Delta Drinking Water Quality Criteria" prepared by a panel of experts commissioned by CUWA. As you are aware, the panel outlined the necessary source water quality which they believe will be required to ensure meeting the panel's projection of future drinking water standards given currently available advanced treatment technology. These findings include the presumption that California water agencies will be expending hundreds of millions of dollars for treatment upgrades.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program, in addressing its goals for drinking water quality, will make a critical decision which will affect the ability of water purveyors to meet a given level of water quality, and thus safety for the public in their water supply. CUWA prepared its Bay Delta Drinking Water Quality Criteria report to provide CALFED potential screening criteria for assessment of program alternatives and the efficacy of its common programs. CUWA strongly believes EPA must give clear guidance to CALFED on how to balance source water quality and implementation of more aggressive treatment technology while achieving progress on other important objectives of the Program.

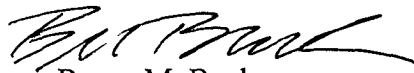
Towards this end, it is essential that the U S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provide CUWA and CALFED its assessment of the panel's findings. Specifically, CUWA requests that the USEPA address the following questions in its response:

- Are the treatment process scenarios and assumptions regarding performance accurate?
- Is the expert panel's assessment of future drinking water regulations reasonable and adequate for long term planning purposes?

- Is the overall approach taken by the expert panel to develop source drinking water quality criteria reasonable?
- Is the supporting information presented sufficient to draw the specific conclusions regarding improvements needed in Bay-Delta water quality?

Your timely response to these questions is critical to the CALFED alternatives analysis process and to ensure the program solutions meet the needs of the twenty million consumers who receive all or a portion of their water from the watershed.

Sincerely,



Byron M. Buck  
Executive Director

CC: Robert Perciasepe  
David Cottingham  
Felicia Marcus  
Phil Metzger  
Lester Snow  
Water Quality Committee

BMB:sab